

ANDEAN COUNTERDRUG INITIATIVE BACKGROUND

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Andean Counterdrug Initiative

Countries:

- Colombia
- Peru
- Bolivia
- Ecuador
- Brazil
- Venezuela
- Panama

Key achievements from FY 2003-2004:

- Aerial eradication:
 - Reduced coca cultivation by 21% in Colombia – a decline of 33% over the past two years;
 - Reduced coca cultivation by 16% in Andean region;
 - Opium poppy cultivation in Colombia dropped 33%, the third straight year of decline.
- Alternative development programs
 - Since 2000 have supported more than 45,000 hectares of legal crops;
 - Resulted in the manual eradication of 22,000 hectares of illicit crops (coca and opium poppy).
- Security
 - Police presence extended to all 158 municipalities in Colombia that had no police before;
 - Colombia extradited 87 Colombian citizens to US over past year on narcotics-related charges.

Eradication in Colombia - Unprecedented commitment to aerial eradication in 2004.

- Coca: 127,000 hectares sprayed in 2003; over 108,837 hectares already in 2004
 - Crop reduced to 113,850 hectares, from 169,000 hectares 2 years ago;
 - Reduced coca cultivation by 21 % in 2003 and 15 % in 2002;
 - Reduced potential production by over 20 % for export quality cocaine;
 - Manually eradicated over 8,000 hectares in 2003.
- Opium poppy (source of heroin): almost 3,000 hectares sprayed in 2003; over 2,996 hectares this year.
 - Reduced cultivation by 10 % in 2003 and 25 % in 2002;
 - Reduced potential pure heroin production by 10 % in 2003;
 - Manually eradicated almost 1,000 hectares in 2003;

Interdiction – Increased efforts by Colombia in 2004.

- Seized 70 metric tons of cocaine and contributed to almost twice that much being seized in the Transit Zone by the U.S.
- Instituted a wealth tax that generated over \$800 million for defense – boosted police and military spending from 3.5 % of GDP to 5.8 % in 2003.
- President Uribe has now established a permanent government presence in all of Colombia's 1,098 municipalities for the first time in the country's history.
 - Police units have returned to over 158 local communities;
 - Colombian National Police have organized and deployed 25 (of a projected 62) 150-man mobile squadrons, totaling 16,500 police to reinforce security in the rural conflict zones;
 - Late 2002, President Uribe reinstituted the 1993 conscription law that allows for the recruitment and training of community based "peasant" soldiers;
- Air Bridge Denial program
 - Was restarted in August 2003 – safely interdicted more aircraft and seized more cocaine in 2003 than in any previous year before ABD was halted in 2001;
 - Forced down and/or destroyed over 38 suspected narcotics trafficking aircraft in 2004;
 - Has seized 9.7 metric tons of illicit drugs in 2004;
 - Resulted in changed narcotics trafficking patterns;

Organizational Attack on Narcoterrorists

- Streamlined extradition procedures resulting in 68 extraditions in 2003 (51 extraditions as of September 2004; 141 extraditions since Uribe's inauguration on Aug 7, 2002).
 - Sent first ever FARC member to the U.S. and several ex-Cali Cartel leaders.
- Passed a new law on asset forfeiture – reduced the processing time for assets seized from known narcoterrorists.
- Military operations against illegal armed groups since Uribe's inauguration (Aug 2002-Sep 2004):
 - 5,392 FTO members have been demobilized;
 - 27,986 captured;
 - 7,859 killed.
- Upon the cessation of the demilitarized zone in February 2002, the Colombian military has reoccupied the main urban areas in the former zone.
- Increased military pressure resulted in the December 2002 unilateral ceasefire declaration by the United Self Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), the largest of the paramilitary groups.
- Overall desertions amongst terrorist groups are up 80%.

Counterterrorism

- Security
 - Colombian Ministry of Defense figures show terrorism cases were down 48% in 2003 and are down 37% so far this year;
 - Between May 2002 and September 2004 Colombia has seen a decrease in homicide by 17.6%, massacres by 55.4%, kidnappings by 35.1%, and acts of terrorism by 18.4%;
 - Established a network of over one million informants to prevent terrorist attacks;
 - Successful preparation of 99 pilots and 154 mechanics and crew chiefs since 1999 to support 33 UH-1N helicopters;
 - A Gallup poll released in September 2004 shows that 74% of Colombians support peace talks between the Government of Colombia and the paramilitary forces, 68% support Plan Colombia, and 68% feel more secure;

- Real spending on defense has increased every year under Uribe. According to the most recent Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Finance figures, Colombian spending on defense has grown over 30% since 2001.
- Narcoterrorism
 - In 2003, nearly 7,000 narcoterrorists were captured;
 - More than 3600 terrorists have deserted their organizations since President Uribe took office;
- Infrastructure Security/Pipeline Security
 - \$100 million for US forces-led training and equipping re: Cano Limon pipeline;
 - Pipeline provides major revenue for Colombia forming 25% of total exports;
 - Sharp decline of attacks on pipeline, from 177 in 2000 to 34 in 2003 and 15 to date in 2004.
- Hostages – Progress in 2004
 - Colombia's murder rate dropped 13.2%;
 - Terrorist incidents dropped 36.7%;
- Extending Rule of Law
 - Training of Colombian police units in neglected municipalities;
 - Colombian police units in all 1,098 municipalities for the first time ever.

Colombia “Byrd Caps”

- Administration's request to increase this year was approved:
 - To a total of 800 military personnel;
 - To a total of 600 civilian contractor personnel.
- Why Caps were increased:
 - Until recently we were able to work comfortably within the ceilings. The increased pace of implementation for programs we support being undertaken by the Uribe Administration offers an opportunity for real progress towards our goals.
 - Previous cap levels hurt management efficiency and prevented full implementation of programs.
 - Average number of US citizen civilian contractors and US military grew as programs were expanded, implemented, and re-started (Air Bridge Denial) or new programs (Anti-Kidnapping Initiative) were begun.
 - During 2003, the number of US military varied from 128 to 396; that of US citizen civilian contractors from 246 to 400.
 - Legislated requirements, including human rights vetting and the prohibition on combat have been maintained.
 - Continuing Department of State programs executed by civilian contractors as part of the plan to succeed in Colombia include: the Airbridge Denial Program, Justice Training, Maintenance and Repair, and USAID.

The Colombian Armed Forces vs. Paramilitary units.

- Arrests, combat operations, and intelligence activities by the Colombian Armed Forces against paramilitaries increased in 2003.
- Colombia's police and military captured 3,166 paramilitaries in 2003, an increase of 135% over the 1,356 paramilitaries captured in 2002. As of September of this year, 3,668 have been captured;
- They killed in combat 346 paramilitaries in 2003, an increase of 85% over the 187 killed in 2002. As of September of this year, 461 have been killed.

Human Rights

- Kidnappings were down 42.4% in 2004.
- Homicides were down 13.2% in 2004.
- Colombia's illegally armed groups have committed 39 massacres so far this year 2004, compared to 73 in 2003. The number of victims affected by those massacres dropped, 43.5%, to 220 as of September of this year from 379 during the same time period in 2003.
- 60 labor leaders were assassinated in 2003, compared to 184 in 2002.
- There were 156,188 newly displaced persons in 2003, a drop of 50% compared to the 310,000 persons displaced in 2002.
- Commission of Jurists reported that of 2,500 human rights allegations in Colombia over the past year, less than 2 % were against the Colombian military. This compares to between 40 and 50 % of the allegations just six or seven years ago.
- The Colombian military is establishing a judge-advocate general corps, as the U.S. military has.